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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/811,847	03/19/2001	Yoshio Ochiai	7217/64198	9246
530	7590	06/16/2006	EXAMINER	
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG, KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK 600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST WESTFIELD, NJ 07090			ONUAKU, CHRISTOPHER O	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2621	

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/811,847

Applicant(s)

OCHIAI ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher Onuaku

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-10&12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kikuchi et al (US 6,553,180).

Regarding claim 1, Kikuchi et al disclose a digital information recording/playback system which has a function of supporting the user to create a visual menu that partially uses actual recorded contents (a still picture, a short movie, or the like), and an information recording medium used in the system, comprising:

a) a storage medium mounted detachably to a main body, the storage medium containing predetermined compressed animation (moving image) file data that have been electrically stored (see Fig.1; optical disc 10; col.7, lines 19-45);

b) expanding means mounted to the main body for applying a regeneration (reproduction) process to the compressed animation (moving) file data (see Fig.39, video decoder 64 of decoder 60; col.35, lines 6-25);

c) converting means mounted to the main body for converting the regenerated image animation file data to image data in accordance with a predetermined outputting system (see Fig.39; video digital-to-analog converter (V-DAC) 67; col.35, lines 6-30);

d) display means mounted to the main body for displaying the image data on a predetermined displaying region in accordance with the predetermined outputting system (see Fig.39; display 48; col.34, line 61 to col.35, line 67); and

e) control means for repeatedly regenerating the image data in predetermined units based upon the compressed animation file data (see Fig.39, MPU 30; col.53, line 29 to col.54, line 61; and VOB 83 and col.15, line 50 to col.16, line 18).

Regarding claim 2, Kikuchi et al disclose wherein the storage medium is a non-volatile memory (see Fig.1, optical disc 10; col.7, line 25 to col.8, line 44).

Regarding claim 3, Kikuchi et al disclose wherein the storage medium stores a control program for controlling an operation of the main body in a manner capable of updating the control program with respect to the main body (see management data recorded in data recording area 28 of disc 10; col.9, lines 19-21; data management data is used for the recording and reproduction operations of video signal—col.36, line 14 to col.38, line 13; col.50, lines 39-47 and col.57, lines 28-43).

Regarding claim 4, Kikuchi et al disclose wherein the main body displays an operational condition on the displaying means as an operation condition image by executing the control program (see, for example, col.18, line 57 to col.19, line 13).

Regarding claim 5, Kikuchi et al disclose wherein the display of the operating condition image is performed by synthesizing predetermined character data with the image (see at least col.34, lines 61-65 and col.35, lines 31-37).

Regarding claim 6, Kikuchi et al disclose wherein the main body executes a control command not contained in the main body by performing the control program

Regarding claim 7, Kikuchi et al disclose setting means for setting an order in accordance with which a plurality of the image data are regenerated, wherein each of the plurality of the images are regenerated in accordance with the order (see col.11, lines 3-25; col.26, lines 14-56 and col.33, lines 46-53).

Regarding claim 8, Kikuchi et al disclose information regenerating unit further comprising timer means for setting a starting time and a terminating time for regenerating the image data, wherein the image data are regenerated in accordance with an optional time (see system time counter- STC 38 of Fig.39- col.34, line 66 to col.35, line 5 and col.36, lines 14-32).

Regarding claim 9, Kikuchi et al disclose information regenerating unit further comprising temporary storage means for temporarily storing the compressed animation file data at a sector unit of storage of the storage medium, wherein the compressed animation file data are read in real time mode from the storage medium to temporarily store the data in the temporary storage means, the image data being regenerated while reading the compressed animation file data in the real time mode (see Fig.39&49; temporary storage 34/34A; col.37, lines 5-18; col.39, lines 33-45 and col.59, lines 33-43).

Regarding claim 10, Kikuchi et al disclose information regenerating unit further comprising:

- a) a loudspeaker mounted on the main body or outside the main body for regenerating voice data (see Fig.48, speaker 8; col.48, lines 13-20);
- b) the storage medium for storing electrically compressed voice file data (see Fig.39, disc 10; col.31, line 64 to col.32, line 3);
- c) the expanding means for applying a regenerating process to the compressed voice file data and for reading the compressed voice data (see Fig.39, audio decoder 68; col.35, lines 6-25); and
- d) the converting means for converting the regenerated voice data to voice data in accordance with a predetermined outputting system (see Fig.39; audio ADC 69; col.35, lines 6-25).

Regarding claim 12, Kikuchi et al disclose information regenerating unit further comprising a storage region for storing a plurality of identification codes of storage file data disposed on the compressed image file data, and storing means for storing a plurality of main body identification codes disposed on the control means, wherein the compressed animation file data in the storage medium that are identified are read when one of the plurality of storage file data identification codes is identified by one of the plurality of main body identification codes, and the image data are generated (see, for example, identification numbers for VOBs; col.16, lines 12-18; and col.20, line 60 to col.21, line 6).

Regarding claim 13, Kikuchi et al disclose information regenerating unit further comprising wherein the main body identification code is rewritable (see Fig.1, wherein Kikuchi discloses the optical disc 10 is a rewritable recording medium, including col.9, lines 34-45; col.9, line 62 to col.10, line 2, and col.11, lines 33-39 and col.34, lines 41-48); furthermore, the main body identification codes, for example, VOB identification numbers, are stored in the management area of the optical disc 10 which is rewritable.

Regarding claim 14, Kikuchi et al disclose information regenerating unit further comprising wherein rewriting of the main body identification code is performed using the storage medium mounted on the main body (see Fig.1; optical disc 10; col.7, lines 38-44; and Fig.1, wherein Kikuchi discloses the optical disc 10 is a rewritable

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recording medium, including col.9, lines 34-45; col.9, line 62 to col.10, line 2, and col.11, lines 33-39 and col.34, lines 41-48); furthermore, the main body identification codes, for example, VOB identification numbers, are stored in the management area of the optical disc 10 which is rewritable.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 11&15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 11, the invention relates to an information regenerating unit capable of regenerating file data which has been in files in a storage medium.

The closest reference Kikuchi et al (US 6,553,180) disclose a digital information recording/playback system which has a function of supporting the user to create a visual menu that partially uses actual recorded contents (a still picture, a short movie, or the like), and an information recording medium used in the system.

However, Kikuchi et al fail to explicitly disclose an information regenerating unit, where the information regenerating unit further comprises wherein a plurality of the storage media are mounted detachably to the main body and the compressed image file data stored in the plurality of the storage media are read alternately, the image data being continuously regenerated.

Regarding claim 15, the invention relates to an information regenerating unit capable of regenerating file data which has been in files in a storage medium.

The closest reference Kikuchi et al (US 6,553,180) disclose a digital information recording/playback system which has a function of supporting the user to create a visual menu that partially uses actual recorded contents (a still picture, a short movie, or the like), and an information recording medium used in the system.

However, Kikuchi et al fail to explicitly disclose an information regenerating unit, where the information regenerating unit further comprises wherein rewriting of the main body identification code is performed using a change-over switch with respect to the storing means for main body identification codes.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Honda (US 6,795,640) teaches techniques for easily and reliably managing a plurality of recording media or the like on which divided image data are respectively recorded, even in the case that data compression rate largely varies with the contents of the data, and for recording mass image data, whose picture quality is effectively prevented from being degraded by recording image data after securing a region according to the preliminarily estimated number of recording media.

Yuyama et al (US 5,612,732) teach a portable television receiver capable of transmitting image data through a communication channel


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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Onuaku whose telephone number is 571-272-7379. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Groody can be reached on 571-272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

COO
6/9/06


James J. Groody
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 262-2621